

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 (Canceled)

11. (New) A blowing agent mixture which comprises fluorinated hydrocarbons, auxiliaries and additives, wherein the inert gas content, measured in the vapor phase of the blowing agent or blowing agent mixture, is not more than 1.5 % by volume.

12. (New) The blowing agent mixture according to Claim 11, wherein the inert gas content, measured in the vapor phase of the blowing agent or blowing agent mixture, is 0.1 to 0.8 % by volume.

13. (New) The blowing agent mixture according to Claim 11, wherein the inert gas content, measured in the vapor phase of the blowing agent or blowing agent mixture, is 0.1 to 0.6 % by volume.

14. (New) The blowing agent mixture according to Claim 11, wherein the inert gases are air or nitrogen.

15. (New) The blowing agent mixture according to Claim 11, wherein the blowing agent mixture contains as fluorinated hydrocarbons at least one blowing agent selected from the group consisting of difluoromethane; difluoroethane, tetrafluoroethane; pentafluoropropane; pentafluorobutane; hexafluoropropane; and heptafluoropropane.

16. (New) The blowing agent mixture according to Claim 11, wherein the blowing agent mixture contains 1,1-difluoroethane or 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane.

17. (New) The blowing agent mixture according to Claim 15, wherein the blowing agent mixture contains as fluorinated hydrocarbons at least one blowing agent from the group consisting of 1, 1-difluoroethane; 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane; 1,1,1,3,3-pentafluoropropane; 1,1,1,3,3-pentafluorobutane; 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropane; and 1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane.

18. (New) The blowing agent mixture according to Claim 16, which comprises a mixture of 1,1-difluoroethane and 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane wherein the content of 1,1-difluoroethane is

from 30% to 70 by weight relative to the total content of 1,1-difluoroethane and 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane.

19. (New) The blowing agent mixture according to Claim 16, wherein the fluorinated hydrocarbon consists essentially of 1,1-difluoroethane.

20. (New) The blowing agent mixture according to Claim 11 which contains in addition at least one alcohol.

21. (New) The blowing agent mixture according to Claim 20, wherein the at least one alcohol is ethanol.

22. (New) A process for the manufacture of thermoplastic foams which comprises extrusion process using a blowing agent mixture, wherein said blowing agent mixture is according to claim 11.

23. (New) A process for the manufacture of polystyrene foams which comprises extrusion process using a blowing agent mixture, wherein said blowing agent mixture is according to claim 11.